

GLOSSOP HIGH SCHOOL



23 March 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Caregivers

As a response to the current COVID-19 virus the Australian Government has advised that all organised, non-essential static mass gatherings attended by more than 500 people must be cancelled from Monday 16 March 2020. The Department for Education has been closely monitoring the situation and providing information to schools regarding actions to be taken. Letters have previously been sent home and information has been included regularly within our newsletter and present on our social media account to keep our school community informed.

On Monday afternoon I was involved in a webinar with other leaders from around South Australia. This webinar was an opportunity to hear directly from the Premier Steven Marshall, Minister for Education John Gardner and acting Chief Medical Officer Mike Cusack on the continual evolving situation. Most importantly is the message that schools will remain open, but principals in schools with more than 500 students and staff should review internal school operations to consider postponing large in-school student gatherings/events. All preschools and schools, regardless of student numbers, are to critically examine the need to hold events and gatherings and consider postponing those that are not essential.

Given this advice I wish to inform you that a number of events that were scheduled for the remainder of the term are being impacted.

- Interschool Sports day, Adelaide Athletics and all corresponding trainings are now postponed
- Excursion for Music and Drama students to the "School of Rock Concert" is now cancelled
- Year 12 Out Door Education Surf Camp is currently postponed
- Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews are currently under review and communication about this outcome will be provided towards the end of this week

These decisions are not made lightly and are about supporting the effort to contain and slow the spread of the COVID-19. As responsible members of the Riverland community, schools play a vital role in assisting our communities to contain the virus. Information and actions may change in line with advice and direction from the Department of Education.

cont.



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Personal Hygiene and the hygiene standards in all preschools and schools are critical to reducing the risk of infection. All students and staff must be encouraged to:

- Wash their hands regularly, particularly after using the toilet and before eating
- Avid spreading infections to others by staying home if they are unwell
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or elbow

We are prominently displaying SA Health resources and posters and talking to students about maintaining their personal hygiene.

All students and staff who are unwell with fever and/or respiratory infection should remain at home until symptoms resolve.

The Department for Education is working closely with SA Health, and we will continue to follow their advice and guidelines. You can also call the government's coronavirus health information line on 1800 020 080, operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I have been in contact with other school leaders within the Riverland and will be meeting with the Glossop High School Leadership team on Wednesday to ensure we have a consistent approach to this evolving situation. I will continue to inform the community with updated information about how we will continue to provide quality education for all students.

Kind Regards

Emily Griggs



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